

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above Amendment and the discussion below.

Applicants invention concerns an improved device for actuating a plurality of electric motors by a transportation vehicle. According to Applicants improvement, the number of output stages are able to be reduced to operate a predefined number of electrical motors in both directions of rotation. Additionally, according to the presently claimed invention when an output stage fails, the respective electric motor can be operated by different turnative output stage.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Weinberner (U.S. Patent No.: 6,774,600). In response to this rejection, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 8 as indicated in item 6 of the patent Office Action. Independent claim 9, as well as dependent claims 10-12 have been canceled.

Claims 3 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Weinberner as applied to claims 1 and 9 and further in view of Verduin et al. As indicated above, claim 10 has been canceled and claim 3 now depends from allowable subject matter resulting from the combination of claims 1 and 8.

In a similar manner the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Weinberner in view of Pardo has been obviated by the combination of claims 1 and 8, from which claim 7 now depends.

Claims 2 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Pardo et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,008,597) for the reasons indicated at item 3 on page 4 of the patent Office Action.

In response to this rejection Applicants have amended independent claim 2 to more clearly emphasize the features which distinguish the present invention over the prior art and particularly the reference to Pardo.

Independent claim 2 now recites that the electric motors are connected in a matrix format having a column line and a row line and that two output stages, which are connected to first or a second potential in accordance with signals from the control circuit, are connected to each row line and to each column line.

Because the two output stages are associated with each row line or each column line, each line can be connected alternatively to two potentials effectively which permits rotation of the electric motor in either direction.

The reference to Pardo has been cited for showing a plurality of output stages, referring to Figure 8, associated with a plurality of electric motors.

Applicants submit that the reference to Pardo, as shown in Figure 8, illustrates motor driver circuits which are detailed in Figure 9. The power breaker are formed as high side switches and low side switches. However, there is only one output stage with one power breaker per line. Thus, the electric motors work only in one direction and the motor switches are connected in series to the motors and there are no output stages connected as required by claim 2.

Therefore, it is submitted that independent claim 2 now defines over the reference to Pardo with respect to two output stages connected to each row and to each column and the fact that the output stages are connected to either a first or a second potential in accordance with signals of the control circuit so that they can be connected alternately to the two different potentials in order to provide operation in both forward and reverse direction.

Dependent claim 4 contains all the limitations of independent claim 2 and is also submitted as allowable.

With respect to the objection to claims 2, 4, 5 and 9-12 as indicated at item 1 on page 2, Applicants have amended claims 2, 4 and 5 and canceled claim 9 to address these objections without adding new matter or raising any new issues.

Therefore, in view of the cancellation of claims 8-12 and the incorporation of allowable subject matter into independent claim 1 and in view of the amendment to independent claim 2 to define subject matter not shown or

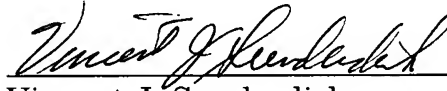
disclosed by the references, Applicants respectfully request that this application containing claims 1-7 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.52897US).

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Vincent J. Sunderdick", is written over a horizontal line.

Vincent J. Sunderdick
Registration No. 29,004

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
VJS:ddd

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